

Classification of subspaces in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3$ and orbits in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$

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Abstract

This paper contains the classification of the orbits of elements of the tensor product spaces $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$, $r \geq 1$, under the action of two natural groups, for all finite; real; and algebraically closed fields. For each of the orbits we determine: a canonical form; the tensor rank; the rank distribution of the contraction spaces; and a geometric description. The proof is based on the study of the contraction spaces in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ and is geometric in nature. Although the main focus is on finite fields, the techniques are mostly field independent.¹

1 Introduction and Motivation

Tensors are fundamental objects in both algebra and geometry. They also have many important applications, for example in complexity theory [4], [1], quantum information and entanglement [9], [11], [14], and quantum coding [8]. There is a vast literature on various topics in the theory of tensors. See the recent book of Landsberg [13] for details on many of these.

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Much of this literature concerns tensors over fields of characteristic zero, and/or algebraically closed fields. However, tensors over finite fields are also of great interest, due for example to their connections to complexity theory, and finite semifields [15].

In small dimensions, there has been much work on classifying tensors, mainly over the complex numbers. See for example [25], [22], where $3 \times 3 \times 3$ tensors over the complex numbers are studied.

Deep geometric analysis of tensors over binary fields was carried out in [10], [23]. Recent computational result over some small finite fields can be found in e.g. [2], [3], [23].

It is worth noting that the theory of Weierstrass-Kronecker pencils gives a way to approach the classification of tensors, for example as in [12]. However, this approach has some downsides and is not sufficient to complete the classification, as explained in [19, Section 1.2].

In this paper we take an elementary, field-independent approach. We obtain a full classification of subspaces in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3$, and provide tables containing representatives for each orbit. This classification of subspaces is based on the classification of tensors in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3$, obtained in [19] using elementary geometric methods, and is independent of any other previously obtained (partial) classification. With this classification at hand, we are also able to enumerate the orbits of tensors in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$ for all $r \geq 1$. Most importantly, our approach gives geometric insight into the nature of the orbits of subspaces and tensors. This geometric insight is very useful in the area of Finite Geometry, and to our knowledge cannot be found anywhere else.

2 Preliminaries

This paper follows on from [19], where canonical forms of $2 \times 3 \times 3$ tensors are obtained, and to which we refer for notation and terminology. Here we restrict ourselves to a brief description of the necessary background for our study. Given a tensor product $V = V_1 \otimes V_2 \otimes V_3$, we consider two natural groups: the stabiliser G in $\text{GL}(V)$ of the set of fundamental tensors in V and the subgroup $H \leq G$ isomorphic to $\text{GL}(V_1) \times \text{GL}(V_2) \times \text{GL}(V_3)$. The problem is to determine the orbits of G and H on V . Previously obtained

results for specific fields or concerning related problems can be found in for instance [2], [3], [17], [23], [24]. In [19], the following was shown.

Theorem 2.1. *If \mathbb{F} is a finite field, then there are precisely 21 H -orbits and 18 G -orbits of tensors in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3$. For any algebraically closed field \mathbb{F} , there are precisely 18 H -orbits and 15 G -orbits of tensors in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3$. There are precisely 20 H -orbits and 17 G -orbits of tensors in $\mathbb{R}^2 \otimes \mathbb{R}^3 \otimes \mathbb{R}^3$.*

For convenience we include the canonical forms for the 18 G -orbits in the finite field case, where we assume that e_1, e_2, e_3 form a basis for \mathbb{F}^3 and $e = e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2 + e_3 \otimes e_3$.

- o_0 0
- o_1 $e_1 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_1$
- o_2 $e_1 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2)$
- o_3 $e_1 \otimes e$
- o_4 $e_1 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_2$
- o_5 $e_1 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2 \otimes e_2$
- o_6 $e_1 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_2 + e_2 \otimes e_1)$
- o_7 $e_1 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_3 + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2)$
- o_8 $e_1 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes (e_2 \otimes e_2 + e_3 \otimes e_3)$
- o_9 $e_1 \otimes e_3 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e$
- o_{10} $e_1 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2 + ue_1 \otimes e_2) + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_2 + ve_2 \otimes e_1),$
 $v\lambda^2 + uv\lambda - 1 \neq 0$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$
- o_{11} $e_1 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2) + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_2 + e_2 \otimes e_3)$
- o_{12} $e_1 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2) + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_3 + e_3 \otimes e_2)$
- o_{13} $e_1 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2) + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_2 + e_3 \otimes e_3)$
- o_{14} $e_1 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2) + e_2 \otimes (e_2 \otimes e_2 + e_3 \otimes e_3)$
- o_{15} $e_1 \otimes (e + ue_1 \otimes e_2) + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_2 + ve_2 \otimes e_1),$
 $v\lambda^2 + uv\lambda - 1 \neq 0$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$
- o_{16} $e_1 \otimes e + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_2 + e_2 \otimes e_3)$
- o_{17} $e_1 \otimes e + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_2 + e_2 \otimes e_3 + e_3 \otimes (\alpha e_1 + \beta e_2 + \gamma e_3)),$
 $\lambda^3 + \gamma\lambda^2 - \beta\lambda + \alpha \neq 0$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$

The three extra H -orbits are o_4^T , o_7^T , and o_{11}^T , where T is the linear map defined by

$$(a \otimes b \otimes c)^T := a \otimes c \otimes b. \quad (1)$$

In this paper we extend this classification result in various directions. Firstly, we determine the orbits on the points, lines and planes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$, includ-

ing a geometric description and a canonical form for each orbit (see Tables 1, 2, 3). In Section 4 we determine the orbits of the remaining subspaces in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$, see Table 4 and Table 5. In Section 5 we extend the classification from [19] (Theorem 2.1) to orbits of tensors in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$, for any $r \geq 1$. Finally in Section 6 we determine the tensor rank of each orbit in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$.

We end the section with some necessary background. Let $V = \bigotimes_{i=1}^r V_i$, where V_1, \dots, V_r are finite dimensional vector spaces over some field \mathbb{F} , with $\dim V_i = n_i < \infty$. The set of *fundamental tensors* is the set $\{v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes \dots \otimes v_r : v_i \in V_i \setminus \{0\}\}$. Projectively, this set corresponds to points on the *Segre variety* S_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r} , that is the image of a *Segre embedding* σ_{n_1, \dots, n_r} . The *rank* of a tensor A , is defined to be the minimum number k such that there exist fundamental tensors $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$ with $A \in \langle \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \rangle$. For $A \in V_1 \otimes V_2 \otimes V_3$ we define the *first contraction space* of A as the subspace $A_1 := \langle w_1^\vee(A) : w_1^\vee \in V_1^\vee \rangle$ of $V_2 \otimes V_3$, where V_1^\vee denotes the dual space of V_1 , and the *contraction* $w_1^\vee(A)$ is defined by its action on the fundamental tensors: $w_1^\vee(v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes v_3) = w_1^\vee(v_1) v_2 \otimes v_3$. Similarly we define the *second* and *third contraction space*, and denote these by A_2 and A_3 , respectively. We will consider the projective subspaces $\text{PG}(A_i)$ of $\text{PG}(V_j \otimes V_k)$, where $j < k$ and $\{i, j, k\} = \{1, 2, 3\}$. The setwise stabilizer of the set of rank one tensors in the contracted space $V_j \otimes V_k$ will be denoted by G_i , where $j < k$ and $\{i, j, k\} = \{1, 2, 3\}$, and the subgroups $\text{GL}(V_j) \times \text{GL}(V_k)$ of G_i by H_i . The corresponding projective groups are denoted by \bar{G}_i and \bar{H}_i . The *(i-th) rank distribution* $r_i(A)$ of a tensor A is defined to be the tuple whose j -th entry is the number of rank j points in the i -th contraction space $\text{PG}(A_i)$. There are two types of lines on the Segre variety $S_{2,3}$: those of the form $\sigma(x \times \ell)$ for a point x in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2)$ and a line ℓ in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^3)$, which we refer to as *lines of the first kind*; and those of the form $\sigma(\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2) \times y)$ for a point y in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^3)$, which we refer to as *lines of the second kind*.

3 Classification of points, lines and planes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$

Note that the orbits under H_2 on subspaces of $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \setminus \{0\}$ are equivalent to the orbits of the projective group \bar{H}_2 induced by H_2 on subspaces of the

projective space $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$. Using the classification of tensors in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3$, we can classify the points, lines and planes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ up to \bar{H}_2 -equivalence, by considering the second and/or third contraction spaces, cf. [19, Lemma 2.1].

Remark 3.1. *As we will see, for some of the cases, the second and third contraction spaces of a canonical form for o_i in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3$ belong to different \bar{H}_2 -orbits of subspaces in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$. In this case we will represent the second contraction space by o_i and the third by \mathbf{o}_i^T in accordance with the notation used in [19].*

3.1 Finite fields

We first classify the \bar{H}_2 -orbits of subspaces of $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$, where \mathbb{F} is a finite field. The classification for other fields is based on this case.

Theorem 3.2. *If \mathbb{F} is a finite field, then under the action of \bar{H}_2 , there are 2 orbits of points, 7 orbits of lines and 11 orbits of planes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$. The description is as in Table 1, Table 2, and Table 3.*

Proof: For each A in the list of canonical forms in the classification of $2 \times 3 \times 3$ tensors (Theorem 2.1) we take the second contraction space $\text{PG}(A_2)$ and third contraction space $\text{PG}(A_3)$. It is clear that there are two orbits of points in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$: points of rank one and points of rank two. Both the second and third contraction space of the canonical form $A = e_1 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_1$ of \mathbf{o}_1 gives $\langle e_1 \otimes e_1 \rangle$, which amounts to a point of rank one. The points of rank two are represented by the second contraction space of the canonical form of the orbit o_4 . Note that the third contraction space of A in \mathbf{o}_4 gives $\langle e_1 \otimes e_1, e_2 \otimes e_1 \rangle$, corresponding to a line of the first kind on $S_{2,3}$. As mentioned above, we represent this orbit by \mathbf{o}_4^T .

The second and third contraction spaces of the canonical form of \mathbf{o}_2 both give $\langle e_1 \otimes e_1, e_1 \otimes e_2 \rangle$, which gives a line of the second kind on the Segre variety $S_{2,3}$.

For the orbit \mathbf{o}_3 we get $\langle e_1 \otimes e_1, e_1 \otimes e_2, e_1 \otimes e_3 \rangle$ giving a plane of the second kind on $S_{2,3}$.

The next orbits corresponding to canonical forms for \mathbf{o}_5 , \mathbf{o}_6 , and \mathbf{o}_7 are represented by $\langle e_1 \otimes e_1, e_2 \otimes e_2 \rangle$, $\langle e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2, e_2 \otimes e_1 \rangle$, and $\langle e_1 \otimes e_3 +$

$e_2 \otimes e_1, e_2 \otimes e_2\rangle$, which give a secant line contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$, a tangent line contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$ and a tangent line not contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$, respectively.

Note that the third contraction spaces of o_5 and o_6 give the same orbits as the corresponding second contraction spaces, while the third contraction space of the canonical form for o_7 gives $\langle e_2 \otimes e_1, e_2 \otimes e_2, e_1 \otimes e_1 \rangle$ which amounts to a plane contained in $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$, and intersecting $S_{2,2}$ in a line of the first kind and a line of the second kind. This orbit is represented by \mathbf{o}_7^T .

The second and third contraction spaces for \mathbf{o}_8 both give $\langle e_1 \otimes e_1, e_2 \otimes e_2, e_2 \otimes e_3 \rangle$, inducing a plane intersecting $S_{2,3}$ in a line of the second kind $\sigma_{2,3}(\langle e_2 \rangle \times \langle e_2, e_3 \rangle)$ and a point $\langle e_1 \otimes e_1 \rangle$. Note that this plane is not contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$.

The second contraction space for \mathbf{o}_9 gives $\langle e_2 \otimes e_1, e_2 \otimes e_2, e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_3 \rangle$ giving a plane intersecting $S_{2,3}$ in a line of the second kind. Again this plane is not contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$. The third contraction space gives $\langle e_2 \otimes e_3, e_2 \otimes e_2, e_1 \otimes e_3 + e_2 \otimes e_1 \rangle$, which is different but equivalent under the element $(g, h) \in H_2$, where g is the identity and h is the basis transformation $e_1 \mapsto e_3$, $e_2 \mapsto e_2$, and $e_3 \mapsto e_1$ in the second factor.

Both the second and the third contraction spaces of \mathbf{o}_{10} give a constant rank two line in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$. There is one such orbit of lines under the action of H_2 , since there is one orbit of subvarieties $S_{2,2}$ and these lines correspond to the (unique) orbit of nonsingular points in the Segre variety product of three projective lines (see [17]).

The second contraction space for \mathbf{o}_{11} gives $\langle e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2, e_1 \otimes e_2 + e_2 \otimes e_3 \rangle$ inducing a constant rank two line not contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$, while the third contraction space gives the plane defined by $\langle e_1 \otimes e_1, e_1 \otimes e_2 + e_2 \otimes e_1, e_2 \otimes e_2 \rangle$. This plane is contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$ and intersects $S_{2,2}$ in a conic. The corresponding orbit is denoted by \mathbf{o}_{11}^T .

From the canonical form A for \mathbf{o}_{12} we obtain $A_2 = \langle e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_3, e_1 \otimes e_2, e_2 \otimes e_2 \rangle$. Then $\text{PG}(A_2)$ is a plane not contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$ and intersecting $S_{2,3}$ in a line of the first kind. The third contraction space is $A_3 = \langle e_1 \otimes e_1, e_1 \otimes e_2 + e_2 \otimes e_3, e_2 \otimes e_1 \rangle$. This is equivalent to the second contraction space under the element $(g, h) \in H_2$, where g is the identity and h is the basis transformation $e_1 \mapsto e_2$, $e_2 \mapsto e_1$, and $e_3 \mapsto e_3$ in the second factor.

The second contraction space for \mathbf{o}_{13} gives $A_2 = \langle e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2, e_1 \otimes e_2, e_2 \otimes e_3 \rangle$, inducing the plane $\text{PG}(A_2)$ not contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$, and intersecting

$S_{2,3}$ in exactly two points. Again the third contraction space is equivalent to the second contraction space under the element $(g, h) \in H_2$, where g is the identity and h is the basis transformation $e_1 \mapsto e_2$, $e_2 \mapsto e_1$, and $e_3 \mapsto e_3$ in the second factor.

Both the second and the third contraction spaces of the canonical form A for \mathbf{o}_{14} give the plane $\text{PG}(A_2)$, defined by $A_2 = \langle e_1 \otimes e_1, (e_1 + e_2) \otimes e_2, e_2 \otimes e_3 \rangle$, which is not contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$ and intersects $S_{2,3}$ in exactly three points.

For \mathbf{o}_{15} the canonical form A gives the second contraction space $A_2 = \langle e_1 \otimes (e_1 + ue_2) + e_2 \otimes e_2, e_1 \otimes e_2 + ve_2 \otimes e_1, e_1 \otimes e_3 \rangle$. This corresponds to a plane $\text{PG}(A_2)$ intersecting $S_{2,3}$ in exactly one point. For \mathbf{o}_{16} the canonical form A gives the second contraction space $A_2 = \langle e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2, e_1 \otimes e_2 + e_2 \otimes e_3, e_1 \otimes e_3 \rangle$, again amounting to a plane intersecting $S_{2,3}$ in exactly one point. Both of these are equivalent to the third contraction space of the corresponding orbit by the element $(g, h) \in H_2$, where g is the identity and h is the appropriate basis transformation in the second factor space ($e_1 \mapsto e_2$, $e_2 \mapsto e_1$, $e_3 \mapsto e_3$ for \mathbf{o}_{15} and $e_1 \mapsto e_3$, $e_2 \mapsto e_3$, $e_3 \mapsto e_1$ for \mathbf{o}_{16}).

Both planes contain a unique line l for which it holds that for each rank two point y on l , the solid $\langle Q(y) \rangle$ (see [19, Lemma 2.4]) meets the plane in l . Moreover, for each other rank two point y in the plane, the solid $\langle Q(y) \rangle$ meets the plane in y . The geometric characterisation of these two planes is then that for \mathbf{o}_{15} , this line is a line of type \mathbf{o}_{10} (and hence does not go through the unique point of rank one in that plane), while for \mathbf{o}_{16} , this line is of type \mathbf{o}_6 and contains the unique point of rank one in that plane.

Finally for \mathbf{o}_{17} , we recall that the first contraction space gives a line $\text{PG}(A_1)$ which has no singular points. In other words, for each contraction $w_1^\vee \neq 0$ in the first factor, $w_1^\vee(A)$ is a nonsingular 3×3 tensor. Equivalently, for $i \in \{2, 3\}$, and for each two nonzero contractions $w_1^\vee \in V_1^\vee$, $w_i^\vee \in V_i^\vee$ the double contraction $w_i^\vee(w_1^\vee(A))$ is a nonzero vector. Since $w_i^\vee(w_1^\vee(A)) = w_1^\vee(w_i^\vee(A))$, this implies that each $w_i^\vee(A)$ must have rank two. It follows that both the second and third contraction space gives a constant rank two plane. \square

The \bar{H}_2 -orbits of points, lines and planes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ for $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F}_q$ are summarised in the following tables. The dimensions of the minimal Segre variety spanning a subspace containing a representative of the orbit is given in the third column, e.g. 2×1 means that there exists a variety $X \cong S_{2,1}$ contained in the Segre variety $S_{2,3}$, such that the representative of the orbit

Orbit	Intersection with $S_{2,3}$	Min	Rep
o_1	a point	1×1	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$
o_4	\emptyset	1×2	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 1 & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$

Table 1: The two \bar{H}_2 -orbits of points in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ for $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F}_q$.

is contained in $\langle X \rangle$. The last column represents the subspace.

Orbit	Intersection with $S_{2,3}$	Min	Rep
o_2	line of the second kind	1×2	$\begin{bmatrix} x & y & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$
o_4^T	line of the first kind	2×1	$\begin{bmatrix} x & \cdot & \cdot \\ y & \cdot & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$
o_5	2 points	2×2	$\begin{bmatrix} x & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & y & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$
o_6	1 point	2×2	$\begin{bmatrix} x & \cdot & \cdot \\ y & x & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$
o_7	1 point	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} x & y & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & x \end{bmatrix}$
o_{10}	\emptyset	2×2	$\begin{bmatrix} x & ux+y & \cdot \\ vy & x & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$ $v\lambda^2 + uv\lambda - 1 \neq 0, \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{F}$
o_{11}	\emptyset	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} x & y & \cdot \\ \cdot & x & y \end{bmatrix}$

Table 2: The seven \bar{H}_2 -orbits of lines in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ for $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F}_q$

Orbit	Intersection with $S_{2,3}$	Min	Rep
o_3	a plane	1×3	$\begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$
o_7^T	2 lines	2×2	$\begin{bmatrix} z & \cdot & \cdot \\ x & y & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$
o_8	a line and a point	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} x & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & y & z \end{bmatrix}$
o_9	a line of the second kind	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} z & \cdot & \cdot \\ x & y & z \end{bmatrix}$
o_{11}^T	a conic	2×2	$\begin{bmatrix} x & y & \cdot \\ y & z & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$
o_{12}	a line of the first kind	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} x & y & \cdot \\ \cdot & z & x \end{bmatrix}$
o_{13}	two points	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} x & y & \cdot \\ \cdot & x & z \end{bmatrix}$
o_{14}	three points	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} x & y & \cdot \\ \cdot & y & z \end{bmatrix}$
o_{15}	one point (contains line of o_{10})	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} x & ux+y & z \\ vy & x & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$ $v\lambda^2 + uv\lambda - 1 \neq 0, \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{F}$
o_{16}	one point, (contains line of o_{11})	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \\ \cdot & x & y \end{bmatrix}$
o_{17}	\emptyset	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \\ \alpha z & x + \beta z & y + \gamma z \end{bmatrix}$ $\lambda^3 + \gamma\lambda^2 - \beta\lambda + \alpha \neq 0, \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{F}$

Table 3: The eleven \bar{H}_2 -orbits of planes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ for $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F}_q$.

3.2 Algebraically closed fields and the real numbers

In this section the classification of points, lines and planes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ is given for the real field and for algebraically closed fields. For other fields see [19, Remark 3.2].

Theorem 3.3. *If \mathbb{F} is an algebraically closed field, then under the action of \bar{H}_2 , there are 2 orbits of points, 6 orbits of lines and 9 orbits of planes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$. The description is as in Table 1, Table 2, and Table 3, where the orbits o_{10} , o_{15} and o_{17} do not occur.*

Proof: Since \mathbb{F} is algebraically closed, there do not exist $u, v, \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{F}$ satisfying the necessary conditions for the orbits o_{10} , o_{15} ($v\lambda^2 + uv\lambda - 1 \neq 0, \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{F}$) and for o_{17} ($\lambda^3 + \gamma\lambda^2 - \beta\lambda + \alpha \neq 0, \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{F}$). All the other arguments used in the proof of Theorem 3.2 are field independent. \square

Theorem 3.4. *If \mathbb{F} is the field of real numbers, then there are 2 orbits of points, 7 orbits of lines and 10 orbits of planes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$. The*

description is as in Table 1, Table 2, and Table 3, where the orbit o_{17} does not occur.

Proof: The orbit o_{17} does not occur since a polynomial $\lambda^3 + \gamma\lambda^2 - \beta\lambda + \alpha \in \mathbb{R}[\lambda]$ always has a real root. All the other arguments used in the proof of Theorem 3.2 are valid for the real field. \square

4 Classification of solids and hyperplanes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$

The classification of points, lines and planes of $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ allows us to classify all subspaces of $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ due to the following lemmas, which hold in any tensor product space $V_1 \otimes V_2$, where V_1, V_2 are two finite dimensional vectors spaces over a field \mathbb{F} . Let $K = \text{GL}(V_1) \times \text{GL}(V_2)$ and let β_1, β_2 be nondegenerate symmetric bilinear forms on V_1, V_2 respectively. Let β be the bilinear form on $V_1 \otimes V_2$ defined by

$$\beta(a \otimes b, c \otimes d) := \beta_1(a, c)\beta_2(b, d). \quad (2)$$

For any subspace U of V_1, V_2 or $V_1 \otimes V_2$, we abuse notation and denote by U^\perp the orthogonal space of U with respect to β_1, β_2 or β . We define $\text{PG}(U)^\perp := \text{PG}(U^\perp)$, and for a nonzero vector v we define $v^\perp = \langle v \rangle^\perp$.

For $g_i \in \text{GL}(V_i)$, denote by \hat{g}_i the adjoint of g_i with respect to β_i , i.e. $\beta_i(x^{g_i}, y) = \beta_i(x, y^{\hat{g}_i})$ for all $x, y \in V_i$. Then the adjoint of $(g_1, g_2) \in K \leq \text{GL}(V_1 \otimes V_2)$ with respect to β is (\hat{g}_1, \hat{g}_2) , that is $\beta(x^{(g_1, g_2)}, y) = \beta(x, y^{(\hat{g}_1, \hat{g}_2)})$ for all $x, y \in V_1 \otimes V_2$.

Lemma 4.1. *The K -orbits on k -spaces in $V_1 \otimes V_2$ are in one-to-one correspondence with the K -orbits on codimension k -spaces in $V_1 \otimes V_2$.*

Proof: Suppose U is a subspace of $V_1 \otimes V_2$ of dimension k , and suppose U is K -equivalent to W , i.e. there exist $g_1 \in \text{GL}(V_1), g_2 \in \text{GL}(V_2)$ such that $W = U^{(g_1, g_2)} = \{x^{(g_1, g_2)} : x \in U\}$. Suppose $y \in W^\perp$, i.e. $\beta(x^{(g_1, g_2)}, y) = 0$ for all $x \in U$. But then $\beta(x, y^{(\hat{g}_1, \hat{g}_2)}) = 0$ for all $x \in U$, implying that $y^{(\hat{g}_1, \hat{g}_2)} \in U^\perp$. Hence $(W^\perp)^{(\hat{g}_1, \hat{g}_2)} \leq U^\perp$, and a consideration of dimensions concludes the proof. \square

Lemma 4.2. *Let $U \leq \mathbb{F}^{n_1}$ and $V \leq \mathbb{F}^{n_2}$.*

(a) *Then $(U \otimes V)^\perp = \langle U^\perp \otimes \mathbb{F}^{n_2}, \mathbb{F}^{n_1} \otimes V^\perp \rangle$, and $\text{PG}(U \otimes V)^\perp$ meets S_{n_1, n_2} in precisely $\sigma_{n_1, n_2}(\text{PG}(U^\perp) \times \text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^{n_2})) \cup \sigma_{n_1, n_2}(\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^{n_1}) \times \text{PG}(V^\perp))$.*

(b) *Suppose $\text{PG}(A)$ is a subspace of $\text{PG}(U \otimes V)$, but is disjoint from $\sigma_{n_1, n_2}(\text{PG}(U) \times \text{PG}(V))$, and A has dimension $jk - \max\{j, k\}$, where $\dim(U) = j$ and $\dim(V) = k$. Then $\text{PG}(A^\perp)$ meets S_{n_1, n_2} in precisely $\sigma_{n_1, n_2}(\text{PG}(U^\perp) \times \text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^{n_2})) \cup \sigma_{n_1, n_2}(\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^{n_1}) \times \text{PG}(V^\perp))$.*

Proof. (a) Suppose $a \otimes b \in (u \otimes v)^\perp$. Then $\beta_1(a, u)\beta_2(b, v) = 0$, and so $a \in u^\perp$ or $b \in v^\perp$. Hence $a \otimes b \in (U \otimes V)^\perp$ if and only if $a \in u^\perp$ or $b \in v^\perp$ for all $u \in U, v \in V$, and hence $a \in U^\perp$ or $b \in V^\perp$. This implies that $\text{PG}(U \otimes V)^\perp$ meets S_{n_1, n_2} in precisely $\sigma_{n_1, n_2}(\text{PG}(U^\perp) \times \text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^{n_2})) \cup \sigma_{n_1, n_2}(\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^{n_1}) \times \text{PG}(V^\perp))$. and hence $\langle U^\perp \otimes \mathbb{F}^{n_2}, \mathbb{F}^{n_1} \otimes V^\perp \rangle \leq (U \otimes V)^\perp$. Considering dimensions, equality follows.

(b) Since $A \leq U \otimes V$, $A^\perp \geq (U \otimes V)^\perp$, and by part (a) $\sigma_{n_1, n_2}(\text{PG}(U^\perp) \times \text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^{n_2})) \cup \sigma_{n_1, n_2}(\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^{n_1}) \times \text{PG}(V^\perp))$ is contained in $\text{PG}(A)^\perp \cap S_{n_1, n_2}$.

Suppose now $a \otimes b \in A^\perp$, where $a \notin U^\perp$ and $b \notin V^\perp$. Then $U \otimes V$ is not contained in $(a \otimes b)^\perp$, and hence $W = (U \otimes V) \cap (a \otimes b)^\perp$ is a hyperplane in $U \otimes V$, containing A . Now if $x \in U \cap a^\perp$ and $y \in V \cap b^\perp$, then by part (a) of this lemma, $\langle x \rangle \otimes V$ is a subspace of dimension k contained in W , and $U \otimes \langle y \rangle$ is a subspace of dimension j contained in W . Since $\dim W = jk - 1$, and $\dim A = jk - \max\{j, k\}$, A must intersect at least the larger of the subspaces $\langle x \rangle \otimes V$ and $U \otimes \langle y \rangle$, contradicting the hypothesis that $\text{PG}(A)$ is disjoint from $\sigma_{n_1, n_2}(\text{PG}(U) \times \text{PG}(V))$. \square

Now using Lemma 4.1 and Lemma 4.2, we can classify all the \bar{H}_2 -orbits on subspaces of $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$, by considering $\text{PG}(A_2^\perp)$ for each orbit whose second contraction space A_2 is a point or a line. We determine these spaces and their intersection with the Segre variety $S_{2,3}$.

Definition 4.3. *We identify o_i with the \bar{H}_2 -orbit of subspaces in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ containing $\text{PG}(A_2)$, where $A \in o_i$, and we define o_i^\perp to be the \bar{H}_2 -orbit of subspaces in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ containing $\text{PG}(A_2)^\perp$, where $A \in o_i$.*

We start with the following lemma which will be used in the proof of the main result of this section.

Lemma 4.4. $o_{12}^\perp = o_{11}^T$.

Proof: Let A be a tensor in o_{12} . If $\text{PG}(A_2^\perp)$ contains a line of the first kind of $S_{2,3}$, say $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \langle v \rangle)$, then by Lemma 4.2, the plane $\text{PG}(A_2)$ is contained in the $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes v^\perp)$, a contradiction. This implies that $\text{PG}(A_2^\perp)$ does not contain a line of the first kind. Moreover, since $\text{PG}(A_2)$ does contain a line of the first kind, $\text{PG}(A_2^\perp)$ is contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$. By Table 3 this only leaves the possibility $o_{12}^\perp = o_{11}^T$. \square

4.1 Finite Fields

Theorem 4.5. *If \mathbb{F} is a finite field, then under the action of \bar{H}_2 , there are 7 orbits of solids, and 2 orbits of hyperplanes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$. The description is as in Table 4 and Table 5.*

Proof: (a) Perps of points on $S_{2,3}$: o_1^\perp

Consider o_1 , where $\text{PG}(A_2)$ is a point of $S_{2,3}$, say $x = \langle u \otimes v \rangle$. By Lemma 4.2, x^\perp is a projective hyperplane meeting $S_{2,3}$ precisely in the plane $\text{PG}(u^\perp \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ and the Segre variety $\sigma(\mathbb{F}^2 \times v^\perp)$. They intersect in the line $\text{PG}(u^\perp \otimes v^\perp)$.

(b) Perps of lines on $S_{2,3}$: $o_2^\perp, (o_4^T)^\perp$

Next take a line $l = \text{PG}(A_2)$ with $A \in o_2$, that is, l is a line of the second kind $\text{PG}(u \otimes \langle a, b \rangle)$ on $S_{2,3}$. Then by Lemma 4.2, l^\perp meets $S_{2,3}$ in the union of the plane $\text{PG}(u^\perp \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ and the line $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes (a^\perp \cap b^\perp))$.

Next consider a line $l = \text{PG}(A_2)$ with $A \in o_4^T$, that is, $l = \text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes v)$ is a line of the first kind on $S_{2,3}$. By Lemma 4.2, l^\perp meets $S_{2,3}$ in precisely the Segre variety $\sigma(\mathbb{F}^2 \times v^\perp)$, an $S_{2,2}$.

(c) Perps of lines secant to $S_{2,3}$: o_5^\perp

For a secant line $l = \langle u \otimes v, w \otimes z \rangle = \text{PG}(A_2)$ with $A \in o_5$, we get that the intersection of l^\perp with $S_{2,3}$ is the union of the three lines $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes (v^\perp \cap z^\perp))$, $\text{PG}(u^\perp \otimes z^\perp)$ and $\text{PG}(w^\perp \otimes v^\perp)$. The second and third line are disjoint, and both meet the first line.

(d) Perps of lines tangent to $S_{2,3}$: o_6^\perp, o_7^\perp

Suppose l is a tangent line to $S_{2,3}$ at a point $\text{PG}(u \otimes v)$. Let y be a point of rank two on l . The intersection of l^\perp with $S_{2,3}$ is then equal to the union of the intersections $y^\perp \cap \text{PG}(u^\perp \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ and $y^\perp \cap \text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes v^\perp)$,

Then l^\perp contains a line of the first kind, say $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes b)$, if and only if l is contained in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes b)^\perp$, which is equal to $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes b^\perp)$, and so l is spanned by an $S_{2,2}$. Hence l^\perp contains a line of the first kind if and only if it is the second contraction space of a tensor in o_6^\perp , and this line is unique.

Now l^\perp contains a line of the second kind, say $\text{PG}(a \otimes b^\perp)$, if and only if l is contained in $\text{PG}(a \otimes b^\perp)^\perp$, which equals $\langle a^\perp \otimes \mathbb{F}^3, \mathbb{F}^2 \otimes b \rangle$. But this contains a plane and a line of $S_{2,3}$ meeting in a point, and hence this point must be $\text{PG}(u \otimes v)$, for otherwise l would be a secant to $S_{2,3}$. Hence $a = u^\perp$ and $v \in b^\perp$, and this line is unique, for otherwise l^\perp would contain $\text{PG}(u^\perp \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$, and l would be contained in $\text{PG}(u \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$.

Hence the second contraction space of a tensor in o_6^\perp meets $S_{2,3}$ in precisely two lines, one of each kind.

Now the second contraction space of a tensor in o_7^\perp meets $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes v^\perp)$ in a plane. By the above, this plane cannot contain a line of $S_{2,3}$, and hence this contraction space meets $S_{2,3}$ in a conic and a line of the second kind.

(e) Perps of lines disjoint from $S_{2,3}$: $o_{10}^\perp, o_{11}^\perp$

If $l = \text{PG}(A_2)$ with $A \in o_{10}$, i.e. l is contained in some $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$ but disjoint from $S_{2,2}$. Let $l \subset \langle \sigma(\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2) \times m) \rangle$, where m is a line of $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^3)$. Then, by Lemma 4.2(b), l^\perp , the second contraction space of a tensor in o_{10}^\perp , meets $S_{2,3}$ in precisely the line $\sigma(\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2) \times m^\perp)$.

The second contraction space of o_{17} is a plane disjoint from $S_{2,3}$, and hence any line contained in it is the second contraction space of a tensor in o_{10} or o_{11} . We claim that o_{10} is not possible. For suppose otherwise, i.e. l is a line disjoint from $S_{2,3}$, contained in an $S_{2,2}$ (say, $\sigma(m_1 \times m_2)$), and contained in a plane π disjoint from $S_{2,3}$. Now the line $m = \text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes m_2^\perp)$ is contained in l^\perp . But as π^\perp is contained in l^\perp , we must have that m meets π^\perp . But m is contained in $S_{2,3}$, and π^\perp is disjoint from $S_{2,3}$ by Lemma 4.2, a contradiction.

Hence the second contraction space l of a tensor in o_{11} is contained in a plane π disjoint from $S_{2,3}$, and so l^\perp , the second contraction space of a tensor in o_{11}^\perp , also contains a plane π^\perp , which is disjoint from $S_{2,3}$ by Lemma 4.2 (b).

We may view the planes contained in this Segre variety as the image of the points on a subline $b \cong \text{PG}(1, q)$ of the projective line $\text{PG}(1, q^3)$ after applying the field reduction map $\mathcal{F} := \mathcal{F}_{2,3,q}$ (see [20]). Since there is one orbit of planes disjoint from $S_{2,3}$, we may take the plane π to be the image $\mathcal{F}(\Theta)$ of a point Θ of $\text{PG}(1, q^n) \setminus b$ under $\mathcal{F}_{2,3,q}$. By [21, Theorem 3.3] each

solid containing $\mathcal{F}(\Theta)$ intersects $S_{2,3}$ in a normal rational curve of degree 3 for $q \geq 3$ and of degree 2 for $q = 2$.

(f) Perps of points not on $S_{2,3}$: o_4^\perp

Let x be a point of rank two. As we have seen above, the perp of a point on $S_{2,3}$ contains an $S_{2,2}$. Viceversa, every hyperplane π containing an $S_{2,2}$ is the perp of a point on $S_{2,3}$. For suppose π contains $\sigma_{2,3}(\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2) \times \ell)$, for some line $\ell \in \text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^3)$. Then each plane $\langle u \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \rangle$ contained in $S_{2,3}$ is contained in a unique hyperplane containing $\sigma_{2,3}(\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2) \times \ell)$, and no two such hyperplanes contain more than one of these planes. It follows that the perp x^\perp of the rank two point x does not contain an $S_{2,2}$. But x^\perp does contain a unique line ℓ_x of type o_4^T , since we have seen that the perp of such a line is a solid containing an $S_{2,2}$ and, by [19, Lemma 2.4] x is contained in a unique such solid $\langle Q(x) \rangle$. For each point $y \in \ell_x$, the unique plane $\rho_y \ni y$ contained in $S_{2,3}$, intersects x^\perp in a line r_y . The intersection of x^\perp with $S_{2,3}$ is the union of these lines $\{r_y : y \in \ell_x\}$. Another way to describe this hyperplane is by considering a plane τ on x meeting $S_{2,3}$ in a line t of the first kind, i.e. τ is a plane of type o_{12} . Then, by Lemma 4.4, τ^\perp is a plane of type o_{11}^T meeting $S_{2,3}$ in the conic \mathcal{C} which is the intersection of t^\perp with x^\perp , and τ^\perp is disjoint from ℓ_x . Each solid κ on t intersecting $S_{2,3}$ in an $S_{2,2}$ gives a line κ^\perp of the first kind intersecting τ^\perp in a point of \mathcal{C} . The lines r_y , $y \in \ell_x$ give a one-to-one correspondence between the points of ℓ_x and the points of \mathcal{C} . This is known as a cubic scroll in $\text{PG}(4, \mathbb{F})$. \square

We summarise the orbits of solids and hyperplanes in the following tables. We also include the number of rank one points contained in a representative of the orbit.

Orbit	Intersection with $S_{2,3}$	Min	Rep	# rank 1
o_2^\perp	plane and line	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & x \\ y & z & w \end{bmatrix}$	$q^2 + 2q + 1$
$(o_4^T)^\perp$	$S_{2,2}$	2×2	$\begin{bmatrix} \cdot & x & y \\ \cdot & z & w \end{bmatrix}$	$q^2 + 2q + 1$
o_5^\perp	three lines	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} \cdot & x & y \\ z & \cdot & w \end{bmatrix}$	$3q + 1$
o_6^\perp	two intersecting lines	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} y & y & z \\ \cdot & -x & w \end{bmatrix}$	$2q + 1$
o_7^\perp	conic and line	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} x & \cdot & y \\ z & w & -x \end{bmatrix}$	$2q + 1$
o_{10}^\perp	line	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} x & -vy & z \\ y & -x + uv y & w \end{bmatrix}$ $v\lambda^2 + uv\lambda - 1 \neq 0, \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{F}$	$q + 1$
o_{11}^\perp	normal rational curve	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \\ w & -x & -y \end{bmatrix}$	$q + 1$

Table 4: The seven orbits of solids in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ for $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F}_q$.

Orbit	Intersection with $S_{2,3}$	Min	Rep	# rank 1
o_1^\perp	plane and $S_{2,2}$	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} \cdot & x & y \\ z & w & t \end{bmatrix}$	$2q^2 + 2q + 1$
o_4^\perp	cubic scroll	2×3	$\begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \\ w & -x & t \end{bmatrix}$	$(q + 1)^2$

Table 5: The two orbits of hyperplanes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ for $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F}_q$.

For the sake of completeness we include the perps of the \bar{H}_2 -orbits of planes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ as listed in Table 3.

Theorem 4.6. *For each \bar{H}_2 -orbit o_i , whose representative $\text{PG}(A_2)$ is a plane, we have that $o_i = o_i^\perp$, with the exception $o_{12}^\perp = o_{11}^T$.*

Proof: The exception is Lemma 4.4. The other cases are easily obtained using Lemma 4.2 and Theorem 4.5. \square

4.2 Algebraically closed fields and the real numbers

The classification of solids and hyperplanes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ for the real field and for algebraically closed fields easily follows from the finite field case together with Section 3.2.

Theorem 4.7. *If \mathbb{F} is an algebraically closed field, then under the action of \bar{H}_2 , there are 6 orbits of solids, and 2 orbits of hyperplanes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$. The description is as in Table 4 and Table 5 where the orbit o_{10}^\perp does not occur.*

Theorem 4.8. *If \mathbb{F} is the field of real numbers, then under the action of \bar{H}_2 , there are 7 orbits of solids, and 2 orbits of hyperplanes in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$. The description is as in Table 4 and Table 5.*

5 Orbits of tensors in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$

Now consider the more general case of a tensor product with three factors where the last factor has arbitrary finite dimension $r \geq 1$, i.e. $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$. As before denote by G and H the natural groups acting on $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$ and by H_i , $i = 1, 2, 3$, the induced groups in the contraction spaces.

Combining Lemma 4.1 and [19, Lemma 2.1] with the previous section and the following lemma, we can classify H -orbits on tensors in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$ for all positive integers r .

Lemma 5.1. *For all integers $r \geq 6$, the number of H -orbits on tensors in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$ is equal to the number of H -orbits on tensors in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^6$, which in turn equals the number of H_2 -orbits of subspaces of $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3$.*

Proof: Let $A \in \mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$, and consider its third contraction space $A_3 \leq \mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3$. Then $\dim(A_3) = k \leq 6$. Let a_1, \dots, a_k be a basis for A_3 , and let e_1, \dots, e_r be a basis for \mathbb{F}^r . Define $B = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i \otimes e_i \in \mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$. Then the third contraction space B_3 of B is equal to A_3 , and hence by [19, Lemma 2.1], A is H -equivalent to B , and the result follows. \square

Hence from the previous sections, and from [19], we have the following theorem. A computer classification for the cases $r = 2, 3, 4$, $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F}_2$ was done in [2].

Theorem 5.2. *The number of H -orbits of tensors in $\mathbb{F}_q^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}_q^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}_q^r$ is as listed in the following table:*

r	1	2	3	4	5	≥ 6
$\#H\text{-orbits}$	3	10	21	28	30	31

Proof: First consider the case $r \geq 6$. It follows from Theorem 3.2 and Theorem 4.5 that there are 2 \bar{H}_2 -orbits on points, 7 on lines, 11 on planes, 7 on solids, and 2 \bar{H}_2 -orbits on hyperplanes of $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}_q^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}_q^3)$. This amounts to 29 orbits. Including the trivial subspaces 0 and $\mathbb{F}_q^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}_q^3$ one obtains 31 H_2 -orbits of subspaces of $\mathbb{F}_q^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}_q^3$, which by Lemma 5.1, equals the number of H -orbits of tensors in $\mathbb{F}_q^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}_q^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}_q^r$. If $r \leq 6$, then not all these orbits occur, since the third contraction space A_3 of a tensor A will have dimension at most r in $\mathbb{F}_q^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}_q^3$. This gives 30 orbits for $r = 5$; 28 orbits for $r = 4$; 21 orbits for $r = 3$; and 10 orbits for $r = 2$. \square

Theorem 5.3. *The number of G -orbits of tensors in $\mathbb{F}_q^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}_q^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}_q^r$ is as listed in the following table:*

r	1	2	3	≥ 4
$\#G\text{-orbits}$	3	9	18	$\#H\text{-orbits}$

Proof: It follows from the definition of G that $G = H$ unless $r \in \{2, 3\}$. When $r = 2$, the H -orbits are $o_0, o_1, o_2, o_4, o_4^T, o_5, o_6, o_7, o_{10}, o_{11}$, and the orbits o_2 and o_4 are G -equivalent. When $r = 3$ the result is part of Theorem 2.1. \square

For the sake of completeness we include the corresponding tables with the number of orbits in for algebraically closed fields and for the field of real numbers. The proof is a straightforward consequence from the finite field case and the previous sections.

Theorem 5.4. *If \mathbb{F} is an algebraically closed field or the field of real numbers, then the number of H -orbits and G -orbits of tensors in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$ is as listed in the following tables.*

r	1	2	3	4	5	≥ 6	
$\#H\text{-orbits}$	3	9	18	24	26	27	\mathbb{F} algebraically closed
$\#H\text{-orbits}$	3	10	20	27	29	30	$\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$

r	1	2	3	≥ 4	
$\#G\text{-orbits}$	3	8	15	$\#H\text{-orbits}$	\mathbb{F} algebraically closed
$\#G\text{-orbits}$	3	9	17	$\#H\text{-orbits}$	$\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$

6 Tensor rank in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$

In this section we determine the rank of the tensors in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$. Since the rank of a tensor is G - and H -invariant it makes sense to define the *tensor rank*

of a G - or H -orbit o as the rank of a tensor $A \in o$. For ease of comparison with the previous sections, the following theorem is stated in terms of the H -orbits.

Theorem 6.1. *The tensor rank of the H -orbits of tensors in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$, \mathbb{F} finite and $|\mathbb{F}| > 2$, are as listed in Table 6. When \mathbb{F} is real or algebraically closed, the same holds for all non-empty orbits. When $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F}_2$, the same holds for all orbits with the exception that o_{17} and o_{11}^\perp have tensor rank 5.*

Trk	Orbits
0	o_0
1	o_1
2	o_2, o_4, o_4^T, o_5
3	$o_3, o_6, o_7, o_7^T, o_8, o_{10}, o_{11}, o_{11}^T, o_{14}$
4	$o_9, o_{12}, o_{13}, o_{15}, o_{16}, o_{17}, o_2^\perp, (o_4^T)^\perp, o_5^\perp, o_7^\perp, o_{11}^\perp$
5	$o_1^\perp, o_4^\perp, o_6^\perp, o_{10}^\perp$
6	o_0^\perp

Table 6: Tensor ranks of orbits in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^r$, $|\mathbb{F}| > 2$.

Proof. The rank of a tensor equals the rank of the contraction spaces (see e.g. [18, Proposition 2.1]). This implies that the rank of a tensor is at least the maximum of the dimensions of its contraction spaces. The rank of a tensor is equal to this maximum dimension if and only if its (projective) contraction space is spanned by points on the appropriate Segre variety.

From Table 5 we see that each hyperplane in $\text{PG}(\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3)$ is spanned by five points on the Segre variety $S_{2,3}$, and hence the representatives of both the orbits o_1^\perp and o_4^\perp have tensor rank 5. Moreover, it follows that every orbit excluding o_0^\perp (which has tensor rank 6) has tensor rank at most 5.

If the first contraction space gives a tangent to the Segre variety, then the rank of the corresponding tensor is at least three. Similarly, if the second or third contraction space gives a plane, but the intersection with the Segre variety does not span that plane, then the rank of the corresponding tensor is at least four. In combination with the explicit descriptions in the table, this determines the rank of the orbits o_1, \dots, o_9, o_{12} , and o_{13} .

The orbit o_{10} has tensor rank three, since the second contraction space is contained in the subspace generated by $(e_1 + e_2) \otimes (e_1 + e_2)$, $e_1 \otimes e_2$ and $e_2 \otimes e_1$. The orbit o_{11} has rank three since the third contraction space is a plane meeting the Segre variety in a conic. The orbit o_{14} has rank 3 since the three points of rank one in the second contraction space are not collinear. The orbit o_{15} has rank 4, since the second contraction space is spanned by $(e_1 + e_2) \otimes (e_1 + e_2)$, $e_1 \otimes e_2$, $e_2 \otimes e_1$, and $e_1 \otimes e_3$. Similarly, the second contraction space of the representative of the orbit o_{16} is spanned by $e_1 \otimes e_1$, $e_1 \otimes e_3$, $e_2 \otimes e_2$, and $(e_1 + e_2) \otimes (e_2 + e_3)$.

We can see from Table 4 that each of the solids corresponding to the second contraction spaces of tensors in o_2^\perp , $(o_4^T)^\perp$, o_5^\perp , and o_7^\perp are spanned by points of $S_{2,3}$, and hence each of these orbits has tensor rank 4. The second contraction space of a tensor in o_{11}^\perp contains a normal rational curve of degree 3 for $q \geq 3$ and of degree 2 for $q = 2$. It follows that the orbit o_{11}^\perp has tensor rank 4 for $q \geq 3$. One easily verifies that the rank is 5 for $q = 2$.

Suppose A belongs to the orbit o_{17} , which must have tensor rank at least 4, as its second contraction space is not spanned by points of $S_{2,3}$ (indeed, it is disjoint from $S_{2,3}$). Then $\text{PG}(A_2)$ is contained in a solid which is the second contraction space of a tensor in o_{11}^\perp , and so by the previous paragraph o_{17} has tensor rank 4 for $q \geq 3$ and tensor rank 5 for $q = 2$.

The second contraction spaces of representatives of the orbits o_6^\perp and o_{10}^\perp are not spanned by points of $S_{2,3}$, and so must have tensor rank 5. \square

Remark 6.2. *Our original motivation for the study of the tensor rank comes from their relation with semifields, i.e. finite non-associative division algebras: to each semifield one can associate a tensor whose rank is an isotopism invariant, see [15]. In this context the first case to consider is $\mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3$, which will be the subject of future work and for which [16] and the present paper will be of great value.*

7 Summary

Here we collect information about each G -orbit in $\mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^2 \otimes \mathbb{F}^3$ and their contraction spaces for the finite field \mathbb{F}_q . If $\text{PG}(A_3)$ is not listed, then it is equivalent to $\text{PG}(A_2)$. The third column contains the tensor rank and the

rank distributions of the projective contraction spaces, which we write as multisets for convenience.

	Description and intersection with $S_{2,3}$	Trk and Rank Distr.
o_1 PG(A_1): PG(A_2):	$e_1 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_1$ Point on $S_{3,3}$ Point on $S_{2,3}$	1 $\{1^1\}$ $\{1^1\}$
o_2 PG(A_1): PG(A_2):	$e_1 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2)$ Point of rank two Line on $S_{2,3}$	2 $\{2^1\}$ $\{1^{q+1}\}$
o_3 PG(A_1): PG(A_2):	$e_1 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2 + e_3 \otimes e_3)$ Point of rank three Plane on $S_{2,3}$	3 $\{3^1\}$ $\{1^{q^2+q+1}\}$
o_4 PG(A_1): PG(A_2): PG(A_3):	$e_1 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_2$ Line on $S_{3,3}$ Point of rank two Line on $S_{2,3}$	2 $\{1^{q+1}\}$ $\{2^1\}$ $\{1^{q+1}\}$
o_5 PG(A_1): PG(A_2):	$e_1 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2 \otimes e_2$ Secant line Secant line	2 $\{1^2, 2^{q-1}\}$ $\{1^2, 2^{q-1}\}$
o_6 PG(A_1): PG(A_2):	$e_1 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_2 + e_2 \otimes e_1)$ Tangent line, contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$ Tangent line, contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$	3 $\{1, 2^q\}$ $\{1, 2^q\}$
o_7 PG(A_1): PG(A_2): PG(A_3):	$e_1 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_3 + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2)$ Tangent line, contained in an $\langle S_{2,3} \rangle$, not contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$ Tangent line, not contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$ Plane containing two lines of an $S_{2,2}$,	3 $\{1, 2^q\}$ $\{1, 2^q\}$ $\{1^{2q+1}, 2^{q^2-q}\}$
o_8 PG(A_1): PG(A_2):	$e_1 \otimes e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes (e_2 \otimes e_2 + e_3 \otimes e_3)$ Tangent line, not contained in an $\langle S_{2,3} \rangle$, containing a point of rank two Plane, containing a line and a point of $S_{2,3}$, not contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$	3 $\{1, 2, 3^{q-1}\}$ $\{1^{q+2}, 2^{q^2-1}\}$

o_9 PG(A_1) PG(A_2)	$e_1 \otimes e_3 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2 + e_3 \otimes e_3)$ Tangent line, not contained in an $\langle S_{2,3} \rangle$, not containing a point of rank two Plane, containing a line of $S_{2,3}$, not contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$	4 $\{1, 3^q\}$ $\{1^{q+1}, 2^{q^2}\}$
o_{10} PG(A_1) PG(A_2)	$e_1 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2 + ue_1 \otimes e_2) + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_2 + ve_2 \otimes e_1)$, $v\lambda^2 + uv\lambda - 1 \neq 0$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ Line, constant rank two, contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$ Line, constant rank two, contained in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$	3 $\{2^{q+1}\}$ $\{2^{q+1}\}$
o_{11} PG(A_1) PG(A_2) PG(A_3)	$e_1 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2) + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_2 + e_2 \otimes e_3)$ Line, constant rank two, contained in an $\langle S_{2,3} \rangle$ but not in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$ Line, constant rank two, contained in an $\langle S_{2,3} \rangle$ but not in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$ Plane in an $\langle S_{2,2} \rangle$, meeting in a conic	3 $\{2^{q+1}\}$ $\{2^{q+1}\}$ $\{1^{q+1}, 2^{q^2}\}$
o_{12} PG(A_1) PG(A_2)	$e_1 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2) + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_3 + e_3 \otimes e_2)$ Line, constant rank two, not contained in an $\langle S_{2,3} \rangle$ Plane containing a line of $S_{2,3}$	4 $\{2^{q+1}\}$ $\{1^{q+1}, 2^{q^2}\}$
o_{13} PG(A_1) PG(A_2)	$e_1 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2) + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_2 + e_3 \otimes e_3)$ Line, two points of rank 2 Plane containing two points of $S_{2,3}$	4 $\{2^2, 3^{q-1}\}$ $\{1^2, 2^{q^2+q-1}\}$
o_{14} PG(A_1) PG(A_2)	$e_1 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2) + e_2 \otimes (e_2 \otimes e_2 + e_3 \otimes e_3)$ Line, three points of rank 2 Plane containing three points of $S_{2,3}$	3 $\{2^3, 3^{q-2}\}$ $\{1^3, 2^{q^2+q-2}\}$
o_{15} PG(A_1) PG(A_2)	$e_1 \otimes (e + ue_1 \otimes e_2) + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_2 + ve_2 \otimes e_1)$, $v\lambda^2 + uv\lambda - 1 \neq 0$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ Line, one point of rank 2 Plane containing one point of $S_{2,3}$	4 $\{2, 3^q\}$ $\{1, 2^{q^2+q}\}$
o_{16} PG(A_1) PG(A_2)	$e_1 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2 + e_3 \otimes e_3) + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_2 + e_2 \otimes e_3)$ Line, one point of rank 2 Plane containing one point of $S_{2,3}$	4 $\{2, 3^q\}$ $\{1, 2^{q^2+q}\}$
o_{17} PG(A_1) PG(A_2)	$e_1 \otimes e + e_2 \otimes (e_1 \otimes e_2 + e_2 \otimes e_3 + e_3 \otimes (\alpha e_1 + \beta e_2 + \gamma e_3))$, $\lambda^3 + \gamma\lambda^2 - \beta\lambda + \alpha \neq 0$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ Line, constant rank 3 Plane disjoint from $S_{2,3}$	4 if $q \geq 3$ 5 if $q = 2$ $\{3^{q+1}\}$ $\{2^{q^2+q+1}\}$

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